

station license sought within its the protected service area of a BTA or PSA, including:

(1) An application for each E-channel group, F-channel group, and single H, 1, and 2A channel station license sought;

(2) An application for authority to operate at an MDS station in the area vacated by an MDS station incumbent that has forfeited its station license; and

(3) An application for each ITFS-channel group station license sought in accordance with §§ 74.990 and 74.991.

(c) The Commission shall grant BTA authorizations to auction winners as set forth in § 21.958.

(d) No long-form application filed by the BTA authorization holder will be accepted prior to completion of the competitive bidding process and no long-form application will be granted until expiration of the 30-day petition to deny period following the public notice listing of the application as being accepted for filing

(e) Applicants may use the electronic filing procedures to file both the Multipoint Distribution Service short-form and long-form applications with the Commission.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 57367, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 21.926 Amendments to long-form applications.

(a) A Multipoint Distribution Service long-form application may be amended as a matter of right up to the date of the public notice announcing the application has been accepted for filing provided that:

(1) The proposed amendments do not amount to more than a *pro forma* change of ownership and control;

(2) The Commission has not otherwise forbidden the amendment of pending applications.

(b) Requests to amend a long-form application placed on public notice as being accepted for filing may be granted only if a written petition demonstrating good cause is submitted and properly served on the parties of record.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995]

§ 21.927 Sole bidding applicants.

Where the deadline for filing MDS short-form applications has expired and a particular BTA service area has been specified in a single short-form application only, the applicant shall be named the auction winner for that BTA authorization.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995]

§ 21.928 Acceptability of short- and long-form applications.

The acceptability of short- and long-form applications will be determined according to the requirements of §§ 21.13, 21.15, 21.20, 21.21 and 21.952.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995]

§ 21.929 Authorization period for station licenses.

(a)(1) A BTA authorization will be granted for a term of ten years, terminating ten years from the date of the Commission declared bidding closed in the MDS auction.

(2) A BTA authorization shall automatically terminate without further notice to the licensee upon expiration of the ten-year license term unless prior thereto an application for renewal of such license has been filed with the Commission.

(b) Notwithstanding § 21.45, each new MDS station licensed within a BTA or PSA will be granted for a term of ten years, terminating ten years from the date the Commission declared bidding closed in the MDS auction.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 57367, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 21.930 Five-year build-out requirements.

(a)(1) A BTA authorization holder has a five-year build-out period, beginning on the date of the grant of the BTA authorization and terminating on the 5th year anniversary of the grant of the authorization, within which it may develop and expand MDS station operations within its service area.

(2) This period is not extended by the grant of subsequent authorizations (*i.e.*, grant of a station license or modification).

(3) Timely certifications of completion of construction for each MDS station within a BTA or partitioned service area must be filed upon completion of construction of a station.

(b) Each BTA authorization holder has the exclusive right to build, develop, expand and operate MDS stations within its BTA service area during the five-year build-out period. The Commission will not accept competing applications for MDS station licenses within the BTA service area during this period.

(c)(1) Within five years of the grant of a BTA authorization, the authorization holder must construct MDS stations to provide signals pursuant to § 21.907 that are capable of reaching at least two-thirds of the population of the applicable service area, excluding the populations within protected service areas of incumbent stations.

(2) Sixty days prior to the end of the five-year build out period, the BTA authorization holder must file with the Commission proof that demonstrates the holder has met the requirements of § 21.930(c)(1). The most recent census figures available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census prior to the expiration of the authorization holder's five-year build-out period will be used to determine compliance with population-based requirements. In no event shall census figures gathered prior to 1990 be used.

(d)(1) If the Commission finds that the BTA authorization holder has demonstrated that it has met the requirements of § 21.930(c)(1), the Commission will issue a declaration that the holder has met such requirements.

(2) If the Commission finds that the BTA authorization holder has not provided a signal as required in § 21.930(c)(1), the Commission shall partition from the BTA any unserved area, using county lines as a guide, and shall re-authorize service to the unserved area pursuant to the MDS competitive bidding procedures of this subpart. Applications for such unserved areas are not acceptable for filing until a filing date is announced through a public notice.

(i) The competitive bidding procedures set forth in §§ 21.950 to 21.961 shall be followed by applicants seeking au-

thority to provide MDS service to the unserved partitioned area.

(ii) The BTA authorization holder originally authorized to provide service is ineligible to participate in the competitive bidding process for the unserved areas partitioned from its BTA.

[60 FR 36555, July 17, 1995]

§ 21.931 Partitioned service areas (PSAs).

(a)(1) The holder of a BTA authorization may enter into contracts with eligible parties to partition any portion of its service area according to county boundaries, or according to other geopolitical subdivision boundaries, or multiple contiguous counties or geopolitical subdivisions within the BTA service area.

(2)(i) Partitioning contracts must be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the date that such agreements are reached.

(ii) The contracts must include descriptions of the areas being partitioned and include any documentation necessary to convey to the Commission the precise boundaries of the partitioned area.

(3) Parties to partitioning contracts must file concurrently with such contracts one of the following, where appropriate:

(i) An MDS long-form application for authority to operate a new MDS station within the PSA;

(ii) Applications for assignment or transfer of existing stations with the PSA; or

(iii) A statement of intention as defined in § 21.956(a) along with a completed FCC Form 430.

(b) The eligibility requirements applicable to BTA authorization holders also apply to those individuals and entities seeking PSA authorizations.

(c) Any individual or entity acquiring the rights to a partitioned area of a BTA also acquires the rights to any previously authorized individual stations located within the partitioned area that were held by the previous authorization holder, provided that grantable applications for assignment and transfer of control, FCC Forms 702 and 704, are filed for existing stations and that acceptable amendments to